**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended):

A suction nozzle for a floor care appliance comprising:

a nozzle body having a rear discharge duct;[;]

at least one rotary agitator;

an inner cylindrical section located on an interior of said nozzle body partially forming an agitator chamber wherein said at least one rotary agitator is disposed therein; and

a sidewardly extending channel formed in said inner cylindrical section and disposed to extend transversely along said nozzle body and disposed centered above said at least one rotary agitator.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (original):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 1 wherein said sidewardly extending channel further includes a top wall, and a first and second opposing sidewalls.

Claim 4 (original):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 1 wherein said sidewardly extending channel is hemi-spherical in shape.

Claim 5 (currently amended):

A suction nozzle for a floor care appliance, comprising:

a nozzle body having a rear discharge duct;

at least one sidewardly extending duct communicating with said rear discharge duct;

said sidewardly extending duct being disposed to extend transversely along said [cylindrical] body;

said sidewardly extending duct including a bottom wall;

said bottom wall forming a nozzle supporting lip;

said sidewardly extending duct also including a pair of vertically extending walls;

one of said vertically extending walls being spaced from said supporting lip to provide an open slot for air an dirt impingement on said nozzle supporting lip and transport along said sidewardly extending duct;

said sidewardly extending duct providing a generally constant air flow velocity characteristic by expanding in cross-section area along said nozzle body toward said rear discharge duct;

at least one rotary agitator;

an inner cylindrical section located on the interior of said nozzle body partially forming an agitator chamber; and

a sidewardly extending channel formed in said inner cylindrical section and disposed to extend transversely along said nozzle body.

Claim 6 (original):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 5, wherein said sidewardly extending duct is disposed along a front side of said nozzle body.

Claim 7 (original):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 6, wherein said sidewardly extending duct at the front side of said nozzle body includes a communicating portion that extends over said sidewardly extending duct to fluidly communicate with said rear discharge duct.

Claim 8 (original):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 7 wherein said communicating portion is generally provided with constant cross-sectional areas to improve air carrying velocity.

Claim 9 (original):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 5 wherein said sidewardly extending duct is disposed along the rear side of said nozzle body.

Claim 10 (original):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 5 wherein said nozzle body includes a sidewardly extending duct disposed along a front side of said nozzle body and a sidewardly extending duct disposed along a rear side of said nozzle body.

Claim 11 (original):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 10 wherein said sidewardly extending duct disposed along the front side of said nozzle body and said sidewardly extending duct disposed along the rear side of said nozzle body communicate with said rear discharge duct.

Claim 12 (original):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 11 wherein said sidewardly extending channel is disposed centered above said rotary agitator.

Claim 13 (original):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 5 wherein said sidewardly extending channel further includes a top wall, and a first and second opposing sidewalls.

Claim 14 (original):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 5 wherein said sidewardly extending channel is hemi-spherical in shape.

Claim 15 (currently amended):

A suction nozzle for a floor care appliance comprising:

a nozzle body having a rear discharge duct;[;]

at least two rotary agitators;

an inner cylindrical section located on an interior of said nozzle body partially forming an agitator chamber wherein said at least two rotary agitators are disposed therein; and

a sidewardly extending channel formed in said inner cylindrical section and disposed to extend transversely along said nozzle body and centered above said at least two rotary agitators.

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (original):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 15 wherein said sidewardly extending channel further includes a top wall, and a first and second opposing sidewalls.

Claim 18 (original):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 15 wherein sidewardly extending channel is hemi-spherical in shape.

Claim 19 (currently amended):

A suction nozzle for a floor care appliance comprising:

a nozzle body having a rear discharge duct;

at least one sidewardly extending duct communicating with said rear discharge duct;

said sidewardly extending duct being disposed to extend transversely along said nozzle body;

said sidewardly extending duct including a bottom wall;

said bottom wall forming a nozzle supporting lip;

said sidewardly extending duct also including a pair of vertically extending walls;

one of said vertically extending walls being spaced from said

supporting lip to provide an open slot for air and dirt impingement on said nozzle supporting lip and transport along said sidewardly extending duct;

said sidewardly extending duct providing a generally constant air flow velocity characteristic by expanding in cross-section area along said nozzle body toward said rear discharge duct; and

at least two rotary agitators disposed within said nozzle body.

Claim 20 (original):

The suction nozzle for a floor care appliance as set forth in claim 19 wherein said sidewardly extending duct is disposed along the front side of said nozzle body.

Claim 21 (original):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 20 wherein said sidewardly extending duct at the front of said nozzle body includes a communicating portion that extends over said sidewardly extending duct to fluidly communicate with said rear discharge duct.

Claim 22 (original):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 21 wherein said communicating portion is generally provided with constant cross-sectional areas to improve air carrying velocity.

Claim 23 (original):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 19 wherein said sidewardly extending duct is disposed along the rear of said nozzle body.

Claim 24 (currently amended):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 19 wherein said [nozzle body] at least one sidewardly extending duct includes a sidewardly extending duct disposed along a front side of said nozzle body and a sidewardly extending duct disposed along a rear side of said nozzle body.

Claim 25 (original):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 24 wherein said sidewardly extending duct disposed along the front side of said nozzle body and said sidewardly extending duct disposed along the rear side of said nozzle body communicate with said rear discharge duct.

Claim 26 (currently amended):

A suction nozzle for a floor care appliance, comprising:

a nozzle body having a rear discharge duct;[;]

at least one sidewardly extending duct communicating with said rear discharge duct;

said sidewardly extending duct being disposed to extend transversely along said nozzle body;

said sidewardly extending duct including a bottom wall;

said bottom wall forming a nozzle supporting lip;

said sidewardly extending duct also including a pair of vertically extending walls;

one of said vertically extending walls being spaced from said supporting lip to provide an open slot for air and dirt impingement on said nozzle supporting lip and transport along said sidewardly extending duct;

said sidewardly extending duct providing a generally constant air flow velocity characteristic by expanding in cross-section area along said nozzle body toward said rear discharge duct;

at least two rotary agitators disposed within said nozzle body;

an inner cylindrical section located on an interior of said nozzle body partially forming an agitator chamber; and

a sidewardly extending channel formed in said inner cylindrical section and disposed to extend transversely along the said nozzle body.

Claim 27 (original):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 26 wherein said sidewardly extending duct is disposed along the front side of said nozzle body.

Claim 28 (original):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 27 wherein said sidewardly extending duct at the front of said nozzle body includes a communicating portion that extends over sidewardly extending duct to fluidly communicate with said rear discharge duct.

Claim 29 (original):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 28 wherein said communicating portion is generally provided with constant cross-sectional areas to improve air carrying velocity.

Claim 30 (original):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 26 wherein said sidewardly extending duct is disposed along the rear side of said nozzle body.

Claim 31 (currently amended):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 26 wherein said [nozzle body] <u>at least one sidewardly extending duct</u> includes a sidewardly extending duct disposed along a front side of said nozzle body and a sidewardly extending duct disposed along a rear side of said nozzle body.

Claim 32 (currently amended):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 31 wherein said sidewardly extending duct is disposed along the front side of said nozzle body and said sidewardly extending duct disposed along the rear side of said nozzle body communicate with said rear discharge duct.

Claim 33 (original):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 26 wherein said sidewardly extending channel is disposed centered above said at least two rotary agitators.

Claim 34 (original):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 26 wherein said sidewardly extending channel further includes a top wall, and first and second opposing sidewalls.

Claim 35 (original):

The suction nozzle as set forth in claim 26 wherein said sidewardly extending channel is hemi-spherical in shape.

Claim 36 (original):

An agitator assembly for a floor care appliance, comprised of:

a first agitator;

a second agitator;

a first projection radially extending from an outer surface of said first agitator;

a second projection radially extending from an outer surface of said second agitator; and

wherein said second agitator is driven by said first projection meshing with said second projection.

Claim 37 (original):

The agitator assembly of claim 36 wherein said first projection is a helical ribbon circumscribing the outer surface of said first agitator and said second projection is a helical ribbon circumscribing said outer surface of said second agitator and a continuous point of contact is maintained along the helical ribbons circumscribing said first and second agitators during rotation.

Claim 38 (original):

The agitator assembly of claim 36 wherein said first agitator is rotably driven by an independent drive motor.

Claim 39 (original):

The agitator assembly of claim 36 wherein said first agitator is rotably driven by a belt.

Claim 40 (original):

An improved agitator assembly for a floor care appliance of the type having a suction nozzle, comprised of plurality of four agitators wherein said plurality of four agitators are arranged in pairs, each pair being oriented in the longitudinal direction of the suction nozzle.

Claim 41 (original):

The improved agitator assembly of claim 40 wherein said plurality of four agitators is driven by a single source.

Claim 42 (original):

The improved agitator assembly of claim 40 wherein said plurality of four agitators are rotatably driven by an independent drive motor.

Claim 43 (original):

The improved agitator assembly of claim 40 wherein said plurality of four agitators are rotatably driven by a worm gear assembly.

Claim 44 (original):

The improved agitator assembly of claim 40 wherein said plurality of four agitators are rotatably driven by at the center of each pair.

Claim 45 (original):

An improved agitator assembly for a floor care appliance of the type having a suction nozzle, comprised of a plurality of four agitators rotated at the center of the suction nozzle.